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CBC ANNOUNCES CALGARY TO BE WESTERN CENTRE
FOR ALL-NEWS CHANNEL

Calgary -- Calgary will be a principal Western operating base for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's 24-hour English-language news and information channel. The announcement was made today in Calgary by Denis Harvey, Vice-President, CBC English Television.

In making the announcement, Harvey reaffirmed a commitment already made to the CRTC that more than six hours of each broadcast day on the new service would originate directly from points in Western Canada.

"This is a service designed to show each part of Canada to the whole country", said Harvey, "and the proven skills of our staff in Western Canada will ensure that what Canadians see from there is of the highest quality."

Harvey added that significant program contributions to the new CBC service will also come from other CBC stations in the West, particularly, he hoped, from Vancouver.

"We're going to show Canada and Canadians to each other all day, including prime time, in a way that has never before been possible," said Harvey.

Many of the details are yet to be finalized. Calgary's role, however, will be to co-ordinate and present news and information from across Canada, including its own contributions, in its daily, six-hour "all-news" origination.

CBC was awarded the licence for a 24-hour, English-language news and information channel by the CRTC on November 30, 1987. The CBC's application was based on the strength of its coast-to-coast news-gathering organization. Hundreds of hours of regional television news that are now broadcast only in the originating region will be available in all parts of the country. This will encompass more than 70 per cent of the service's programs.

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The service will reflect the various viewpoints, interests and needs expressed across the country, and the inclusion of material from other broadcasters could contribute to this objective.

The new service will be completely funded independently of CBC's basic service, its revenues generated entirely from advertising and a modest subscriber fee. In its first year of operation, operating expenses are estimated to be \$19.2 million, with revenues of \$4.4 million from advertising and \$14.8 million from fees. (Subscriber fees were a condition of licence for both CBC and the only other applicant.)

The CBC channel will create new jobs across the country, 187 in the first year of operation and another 70 to follow.

Further announcements on major originating points for CBC's new service, including operating bases in Atlantic Canada, will follow over the next several weeks.


January 7, 1988

For further information:

Margaret McLachlan
CBC Calgary
(403) 283-8361

or

CBC Public Relations
English Networks
Toronto
(416) 975-3710



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Ottawa -- The Auditor General of Canada has agreed to be the independent outside auditor stipulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission as a condition of licence for the English-language news and information channel recently awarded to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, it was announced today by CBC President Pierre Juneau.

Auditor General Kenneth M. Dye was responding to a request by Mr. Juneau for audit and reporting services that would enable the CRTC and the Canadian public to obtain independent outside assurance that the CBC maintains effective measures to ensure that the funds allocated to the Corporation through parliamentary appropriation are not used to finance any of the incremental costs of the new channel.

During the CRTC hearing regarding the CBC application, the Corporation committed itself to implement cost separation mechanisms and financial management that would provide effective and fully verifiable separation between the funding for the new service and that of the existing services.

"The CBC is thoroughly committed to meeting all the requirements outlined by the CRTC for the operation of an all-news-and-information channel. I am pleased that the Auditor General, who is the CBC's appointed auditor, has agreed to bring the competence, credibility and independence of his Office to certify that the Corporation meets the financial requirements determined by the CRTC," said Mr. Juneau.

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January 12, 1988

Contact: Richard Chambers
Director, Public Relations
CBC Head Office

Tel.: (613) 738-6779





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